GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4184
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
ALLOTMENT OF FOREST LAND TO CORPORATES
Mediyam Dr. Babu Rao

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any Forest land was handed over to Indian/Foreign Corporates during the last three years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to give back these lands to the tribals ; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce displacement of tribals?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a)to (c) No Forest land can be handed over to any private individual company of Indian/Foreign origin.However,Forest land can be diverted for non-Forestry use under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for a certain period of time depending upon the purpose.During the last three years about 2,07,952 ha of forest land has been diverted for non-forestry purposes by the Ministry of Environment and Forest for various projects.

(d) The Central Government has passed an Act "The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006" to recognized the rights of tribes and other traditional forest dwellers over forest land.